IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the Paragraph at Page 4 line 7--Page 5 line 3 with the corrected paragraph as follows:

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The endianness of a particular computer or filer server is particularly relevant when that computer is exchanging specific types of data with a computer or file server of a differing *endianness*. By "endianness" it is meant the byte order that a particular computer, file server or network device utilizes, for example big or little-endian. Many data transfer protocols and file formats of a set endianness for use with a computer performing any translations as needed. However occasions do arise when a computer needs to know the endianness of another computer. One example of this is a use of remote direct memory access (RDMA) through certain communication links such as a virtual interface (VI) connection. Remote direct memory access enables data to be passed between storage and memory over a network with little host processor intervention. The term "virtual interface" refers to an industry-standard interface between high performance network hardware and computer systems. The architecture for the virtual interface (VI) is defined in *VIRTUAL INTERFACE ARCHITECTURE SPECIFICATION, VERSION 1.0*, published in collaboration between Compaq Computer Corporation, Intel Corporation and Microsoft Corporation, which is hereby incorporated by reference. To use the RDMA read/write capabilities implemented under the VI architecture, the source computer must supply to

the VI interface the source of the data to be transferred and the destination address on the remote computer for the data. Under the VI architecture specification, this remote address must be organized in the proper endianness of the remote computer. In a homogeneous networking environment, where all computers involved share the same endianness this requirement is easily met. However, a need arises to determine the proper endianness of the computer to which a different computer is connected when all the computers in a given network do not share the same endianness. One technique for determining the endianness a computer connected to another computer via a VI connection is described in United States Patent Application Serial No. 10/061,626 filed on February 1, 2002, ~~[ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 112056-0044]~~ by Philip J. Christopher entitled SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR USING AN ENDIAN-NEUTRAL DATA PACKET TO DEFINE SUBSEQUENT DATA PACKET BYTE-ORDER, which is hereby incorporated by reference.

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